

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 SSO-00 /018 W

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O 151245Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3502

UNCLAS TEHRAN 9120

DEPT PLEASE PASS DOT LINBERG AND MCKENDRICK

E.O. 116T2: N/A

TAGS: AFSP: USIRJC: IR

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION ADVANCE TEAM

REF: STATE 211655; TEHRAN 8000; TEHRAN 8664

1. EMBASSY, OF COURSE, WELCOMES FHWA ADVANCE TEAM ONTDY BASIS BUT MUST POINT OUT SOME UNRESOLVED ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE ENTIRE TEAM ARRIVES IN TEHRAN OR ANY MEMBER OF ADVANCE GROUP IS CONVERTED TO PERMANENT PARTY HERE.

2. WE ARE INFORMED BY SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO UNDER SECRETARY PAKDAMAN, MR. MOLAI, THAT MINISTRY WILL HAVE NEITHER OFFICE SPACE NOR OFFICE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR FHWA TEAM. ADVANCE GROUP WILL HAVE AS ITS FIRST DUTY LOCATING SUITABLE OFFICE SPACE AS NEAR TO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ROADS AS POSSIBLE.

3. MR. MOLAI INFORMS US THAT CENTRAL BANK OF IRAN WILL, NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 16, OPEN UP DOLLAR WORKING FUND IN FAVOR FHWA, WASHINGTON. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENTS' CHECKING WITH RIGGS NATIONAL BANK ON PRIORITY BASIS TO VERIFY WHETHER OR NOT DOLLAR WORKING FUND HAS, IN FACT, BEEN ESTABLISHED. ADVANCE GROUP SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT DEPART FOR TEHRAN UNLESS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS FUND HAS BEEN VERIFIED AND PROPER AUTHORIZATIONS, ALLOTMENTS, AND INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS ARE COMMUNICATED TO EMBASSY.

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4. IN REVIEWING STATE 202415, STATE 74406 AND STATE 153512, IT IS EVIDENT TO US THAT CONSIDERABLE WORK STILL REMAINS TO BE

DONE ON STANDARD AGENCY-TO-AGENCY AGREEMENT AND TCA, PARTICULARLY

AS CONCERNS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. SPECIFICALLY, EMBASSY
WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO FHWA TEAM
UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT THE NECESSARY ALLOTMENTS.
AS DEPARTMENT IS FULLY AWARE, POST'S ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES ARE
STRAINED VERY NEARLY TO BREAKING POINT AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING
FOLLOWING AN SAS AGREEMENT WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE EMBASSY CAN
PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE BACKSTOPPING TO TEAM. ALTHOUGH MR. MOLAI
TELA US THAT MINISTRY IS FULLY PREPARED TO RECEIVE FHWA TEAM,
IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOI WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO PROVIDE VERY MUCH, IF INDEED ANYTHING AT ALL, BY WAY
OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. AS MATTERS STAND NOW, ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPENSES (CARS DRIVERS, HOTELS, OFFICE SPACE, ETC) WILL HAVE TO
BE CHARGED AGAINST WORKING FUND.

5. HOTEL SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE CRITICAL, WITH ALL HOTELS
FULLY BOOKED WELL INTO OCTOBER. WE ARE WORDNG ON POSSIFILITY
OF FINDING SPACE IN A PENSION AND WILL ADVISE LATER ON THIS POINT.
MILLS

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